

NOTES=HERE AND THERE

Conducted by the Secretary

The new Secretary owes the members of the Wilson Ornithological Club an apology for making such a late bow. When he succeeded Mr. A. F. Gainer of Nashville, Tenn., as Secretary, he hoped to continue the column so ably edited by his predecessor. When the March Bulletin went to press, he was dangerously ill with influenza and was unable to supply any news or notes. Now, when he is himself again, he wishes to thank the Club for accepting him on Gainer's recommendation, and to assure the Club that he can think of nothing greater for him to do than to give the cause of ornithology the same tireless service that made the former Secretary well-known and respected all over our country.

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The Gray-Von Allmen Sanitary Milk Company of Louisville, Ky., have issued a very attractive series of blotters which have lithographs in natural colors of some dozen of our common birds. The scenic background illustrating the habitat of the birds is well done, also.

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Mrs. Lewis H. Mounts, one of our members, formerly of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is now a teacher in the Ballard Normal School in Macon, Georgia. She reports a general disregard of the sacredness of bird life in her section, and especially condemns the wanton destruction of song birds. Birds are rigidly protected on the campus of the school in which she is a teacher, and this start will help, we hope, the cause of bird protection.

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Mr. Ben J. Blincoe of Dayton, Ohio, is preparing for publication his extensive notes on bird life in Nelson County, Kentucky, his former home. There have been many changes since C. W. Beckham published his check-list on that region in 1885, and Mr. Blincoe's careful studies will be welcomed, especially by the few bird students of Kentucky.

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In February, 1923, there was organized in Ames, Iowa, in connection with the State Conservation Meeting, the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, modeled after the Nebraska organization. The chief purposes of the society are to foster interest in bird life, to have "get-together" meetings once or twice a year, and to form a clearing-house for field notes and observations. An organ for the society was discussed, with the conclusion that the Wilson Bulletin was the logical one. Mr. W. M. Rosen, President of the City State Bank of Ogden, Iowa, was chosen President of the new society. Professor T. C. Stephens of the Editorial Board of the Wilson Bulletin, is also prominent in this organization. This general grouping of all the bird students of a state in a state organization is a good movement and promises to add materially to the number of people

who take an active interest in the out-of-doors. Why do not all the states form such societies?

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Soon after the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized, the bird students of Kentucky began planning a similar society, with the result that on April 19, 1923, several people attending the Kentucky Educational Association in Louisville projected a Kentucky Ornithological Society to be run on lines similar to those of the Wilson Club and the state societies. Officers were elected as follows:

President—Dr. L. O. Pindar, Versailles.

Vice-President—Mr. B. C. Bacon, Madisonville.

Secretary-Treasurer—Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.

The Wilson Bulletin is to be sent to every member as a part of "value received" for the membership fee. It was decided to attempt no organ at present, but to seek affiliation with the Wilson Club.

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One of our new applicants is Mr. O. W. Smith, the veteran student of fishing and all its allied branches and the author of those two delightful books, "Casting Tackle and Methods" and "The Book of the Pike." Mr. Smith says, in a letter to the Secretary, "Fishing is a business with me, not a recreation; and bird-study the recreation."

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One of the most attractive of the outdoor publications is the new *Nature Magazine*, which formally made its bow to the public with the January issue. Mr. Percival Sheldon Ridsdale is Managing Editor, Mr. Arthur Newton Pack is Associate Editor, and they have associated with them a large group of the foremost naturalists in America. The illustrations of the magazine are one of its most prominent features, giving a great impetus to accurate outdoor photography. Ernest Harold Baynes, the well-known author of nature literature, is one of the regular contributors, as are also the famous nature photographer, L. W. Brownell; William L. Finley, the naturalist, who is conducting an interesting series on American Trees; T. Gilbert Pearson, the President of the National Association of Audubon Societies; and Walter B. Balch, the eminent agriculturist. We welcome this new comer in the hope that it will continue its policy of bringing into our homes the very spirit of the uncontaminated outdoors.

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Mr. Carl D. Herdman, another of our applicants, has made his home in the suburbs of Bowling Green, Kentucky, one of the show places in that section. Several years ago he acquired a house on a five-acre lot which had been little touched by the hand of man. At once he began to preserve the natural wildness of the place and to add trees, flowers, and shrubs in keeping with the natural beauty of the place. He has put up 65 different devices to attract or encourage birds. In one corner of the lot he has made a sanctuary for the birds, where they can bathe, or nest, or rest, without fear of cats or English sparrows.

Owners of suburban homes everywhere could profit by emulating his splendid work for the birds.

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The American Association for the Advancement of Science, with which the Wilson Club is affiliated, will hold its annual session at Cincinnati, Ohio, December 27, 1923, to January 2, 1924. An invitation has been extended to the Wilson Club to meet with them at that time.

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A very careful study of the bird-censuses published in the January-February Bird-Lore showed that a large percentage of these contributors were members of the W. O. C. We are glad that our members are everywhere active in creating and fostering an interest in ornithology.

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No organization can continue to serve the best interests of its members without taking in new, virile members from time to time. We welcome, then, the men and women who became part of the W. O. C. at the last election and just as eagerly open our arms to those who are at present on the waiting-list to become members. In all our territory there are many people who are just waiting, as you and I were, to become one of the vigorous supporters of this society. It is this belief which has made your new Secretary conduct a drive for new members and which prompts him to urge every member or well-wisher of the W. O. C. to send in names of people who might be induced to become one of us. **Let every member secure another one this year.**

G. W.